



NEWSLINE

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Montana Department of Transportation Planning Division
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Introducing....



David A. Galt is the newly appointed Director of the Montana Department of Transportation.

Dave's career began in 1977 as a Survey Aide for the Montana Department of Highways. Dave was promoted to Administrator of Motor Carrier Services Division in 1989 after serving in various other positions within the Division.

In 2000 he left the Department to work as Executive Vice President for the Montana Motor Carrier's Association.

Dave has served on several national committees including the Alliance for Uniform Hazardous Mate-

rial Regulations, American Association Motor Vehicle Administrator's International Motor Carrier Services Committee, and the Land Transport Standards Subcommittee of NAFTA. Dave has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Help, Inc. and Chairman of the Hazardous Materials Advisory Council.

Dave has also been a registered state lobbyist to the Montana Legislature for the last ten years.

Born in Lewistown and a graduate of Fergus County High School and Carroll College, Dave likes to fish, raft and hike. He and his family have resided in Helena for several years.

Anderson and Rice Join Transportation Commission

Governor Judy Martz appointed two new members of the Montana Transportation Commission in January. Shiell Anderson of Livingston and Dan Rice of Great Falls.

"Both men have the experience and background necessary to serve Montana well. Their transportation expertise in the public and private sectors will be very helpful in carrying out the mission of this board," said Governor Martz in her news release.

Mr. Anderson succeeds Patricia Abelin in District 2, which covers southwest Montana, and Mr. Rice succeeds Robert McKenna in District 3, which includes the north-central region of Montana.

Transportation Commissioners are appointed by the governor to represent each of Montana's five financial districts over a four-year term. The two new commissioners' terms will expire January 1, 2005.

Shiell Anderson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Montana State University - Bozeman in 1985 and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Montana Law School - Missoula in 1989. He was a member of the Montana House of Representatives from 1993 to 2000, where he served three terms as House Highways and Transportation Committee Chairman.

Dan Rice is Vice-President and co-owner of Transystems Inc. in Great Falls, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974 from Santa Clara University - Santa Clara, California and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Montana Law School in 1977.

The new commissioners can be contacted at:

Shiell Anderson
748 Highway 89 N
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-1164

Dan Rice
511 Central Ave. West
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 727-7500

For more information about the Montana Transportation Commission and other issues related to Montana's transportation system, visit MDT's website at www.mdt.state.mt.us.

Nominations Needed for the 2002-2004 STIP

MDT's Project Analysis Section is gearing up for the 2002 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. The STIP is a list of most major transportation projects planned for Montana for the next three Federal fiscal years. These projects include Aeronautics, Rail, Highway, Public Transportation, and Federal Lands Highway projects. One of the first steps in creating the STIP is to solicit nominations for transportation projects.

Anyone can suggest projects for improving Montana's transportation system. These project nominations can be for any of Montana's highway systems, including projects for reconstructing or resurfacing a roadway, replacing a bridge, improving safety features on a road, or any other transportation project. If you have a suggestion on how to improve the transportation system in your "neighborhood", now is the time to let MDT know about it. Once all the nominations have been compiled, the 2002-2004 Draft STIP will be published and distributed for public comment. Look for it in your local library this summer or contact Jeff Ebert at the numbers listed below for your copy.

Whether you have an idea for a future transportation project, or you are just curious about a current project, feel free to contact Jeff Ebert, Project Analysis Engineer, at (406) 444-7639 or (800) 714-7296 or jebert@state.mt.us

Mary Nielsen

Mary Nielsen, a long time friend and advocate of Montana transportation interests, died of cancer on December 29, 2000.

Mary was a charter member of the WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics) chapter in Sheridan County, she served as chair of both the Montana and National Transportation committees of WIFE.

Her quotable oratory and testimony are still echoed in the halls of the Surface Transportation Board and the Montana Legislature. She said of herself, "I don't think this Mary is contrary, I prefer to be called an 'activist', I think people should fight for what they believe in."

All those who knew her will miss Mary's unique humor, charm, style, and commitment.

2001 Montana Highway Map Now Available

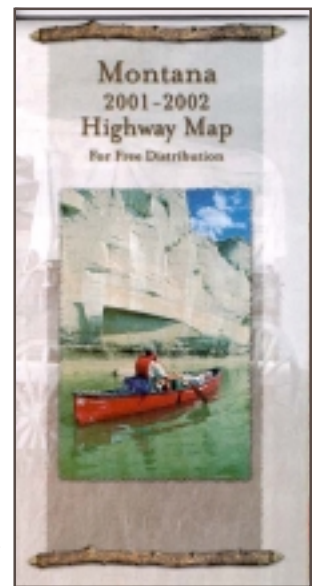
The 2001 Montana Highway map is available for free distribution at Montana's Chambers of Commerce and Visitor Information Centers. You may also contact Travel Montana at (406) 444-2654 or MDT at (406) 444-6119 for a copy. The map is also located on MDT's website at www.mdt.state.mt.us under "Montana Highway Map."

Many thanks to readers who participated in the public involvement process - we appreciate your efforts in helping make the 2001 Highway Map the most accurate and comprehensive effort to date.

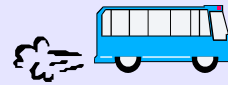
Map users will notice numerous changes with the new digitized map including:

- The addition of 78 towns
- New roads leading to towns and points of interest
- 16 detailed city map insets added to the back of the map
- Towns with gas stations designated by a symbol in the city index
- Text boxes added to incorporate 911 emergency calling, weather and roadway conditions, and immigration information
- National Park hours and restrictions
- Symbols showing Montana's larger ghost towns
- The addition of new camp sites
- A spider map showing distances and travel times across Montana
- The addition of 43 Major National Historic Site locations across Montana
- Interstate exit numbers on the individual city insets

If you have a Highway Map that is difficult to read due to printing errors, please contact us at the number above and we'll gladly send you a replacement.



Transit Tales



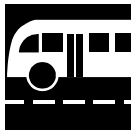
**Operators, drivers,
maintenance do you
want training???**

MDT's Transit Section has an audio/video library with training programs and tapes available for you! Some of the topics include: "Wheelchair Lift Maintenance" (for maintenance personnel); "Assisting Passengers with Special Needs"; "Vehicle Preventive Maintenance and Emergency Procedures"; and "Emergency Procedures for Rural Transit Drivers."

There are other training programs available to benefit your drivers in providing a safe and efficient transit service. A training video catalogue is available upon request.

David Jacobs, Transit Section staff member, is also available to conduct on site training for you and your drivers. For further information on available training and training resources, contact David Jacobs at (406) 444-6120 or djacobs@state.mt.us.

Tenth Annual Montana Bus Rodeo



Mark your calendars for June 23 and 24 because the 2001 Montana Bus Rodeo is approaching and you won't want to miss this fun-filled event!

The Transit Section encourages all transit grantees to attend this two-day driving competition in Billings, sponsored by the Montana Transit Association. The grand prize is an all-expense-paid trip to the National Bus Rodeo competition. Cash prizes of \$100 and \$50 are awarded to the second and third place winners respectively.

Watch for complete details to be mailed in the near future. We hope to see you there!

"Connecting Communities with Trails"

Montana State Trails Symposium

"Connecting Communities with Trails" is the theme of the 2001 Montana State Trails Conference to be held at the Billings Sheraton Hotel on April 5-7.

The purpose of the conference is to bring people together who are interested or involved in developing trails, greenways and bicycle/ pedestrian opportunities within their communities.



There are numerous local and state groups involved with this effort including Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Montana Community Foundation, Montana Parks Association, Western Heritage Center, Yellowstone River Parks Association and BikeNet.

This is a tremendous opportunity to bring interested people together from across the state who are interested in developing trails and greenways, and promoting bike/ pedestrian opportunities in their communities.

The State Trails Plan has identified that even though there are 14,600 miles of trails in Montana, there is still a need for more urban trails and trails that connect municipalities together and municipalities with rural areas and the back country.

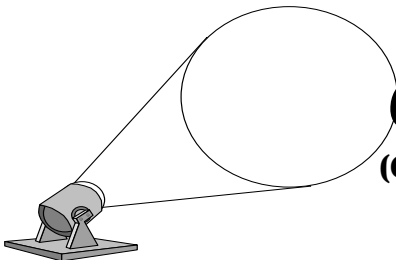
Registration is \$35 for the three-day conference. There is also a one-day registration available for \$18 to attend Saturday only. The registration form and agenda can be accessed at fwp@state.mt.us or for more information contact Bob Walker (406)444-4585 or bwalker@state.mt.us, Steve Gilbert (406)444-7642 or sgilbert@state.mt.us or Carol Strizich, Bike-Ped Coordinator, (406)444-9273 or cstrizich@state.mt.us.

MTA Spring Conference Just Around the Corner!

Don't miss the Montana Transit Association (MTA) Spring Conference to be held at the Downtown Holiday Inn (formerly Park Plaza) in Helena on March 21-23. Join the fun with your fellow associates and learn what is happening with transit at the state and federal levels.

An intensive training forum presented by topnotch trainers from around the United States will be offered, plus the opportunity for networking with your peers. Following the work sessions on Thursday, March 22, the second annual "Excellence in Transit Banquet and Awards Presentation" will take place.

For further information, please contact Noel Larrivee, MTA Coordinator at (406) 523-4944.



CTEP Project Spotlight

(Community Transportation Enhancement Program)



Pedestrian Overpass - Montana City, Jefferson County

A state of the art facility now exists over Interstate 15 after 10 years in the process!

In recent years, Montana City has experienced a large amount of growth on the west side of the interstate. With the local elementary school located on the east side of the interstate, there was an obvious and increasing need for a safe pedestrian crossing.

Local business owners, community members and Jefferson County Commissioners, with the support of the superintendent of schools, held several meetings to discuss possible solutions. The Commissioners submitted the project for CTEP consideration and the problem was solved!

The pedestrian bridge cost approximately \$458,000 which came from CTEP, local, and interstate funds. The new bridge is a welcome addition to the community of Montana City and is used daily by local citizens and school children.

We commend the community of Montana City, the local school district, and MDT for having the majority of the project completed prior to the start of the 2000-2001 school year.

Bike/Ped Path- Fairview, Richland County

Our hats are off to Richland County and the City of Fairview for completion of this Bike/Ped path project!

This project, which eliminated an open section of an irrigation ditch, provides a much safer route for school children and bicyclists. The 669 feet of asphalt pathway was constructed on approximately the same alignment used by a portion of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project.

The approximate cost in CTEP funds was \$56,000. What a great way to turn a problem into a solution!

Highway Landscaping - Drummond, Granite County

The Drummond Interchange is the site for this highway landscaping project. It is one of the smaller projects in cost (approx \$10,000) and yet produced large benefits for travelers on Interstate 90 in the form of a beautiful view!

The preliminary work, including an underground sprinkler system, was done in 2000. The planting of grass, bushes and shrubs will be done in the summer of 2001.

The project will also complement some restoration work performed at a nearby school.

Landscaping - Kevin, Toole County

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way on Front Street in Kevin has been spruced up by a landscape and beautification project.

This five-block-long project was accomplished with only \$5,000 of CTEP funds and a large amount of volunteer labor from the Kevin Community.

Community members installed flower boxes, landscape timbers, top soil, and planted trees, shrubs, and grass. All labor was done by local volunteers under the supervision of the Park Board.

Visitors driving the main route through Kevin will enjoy the beautiful trees and flowers. Congratulations are in order for a main street to be proud of!



South Pond Landscaping - Laurel, Park County

The community of Laurel now has a beautiful park with a pond where there was once a gravel pit. The gravel pit was created when the Interstate was built and remained an unused area until last summer.

Located in a triangle formed by Interstate 90, Eighth Avenue and Railroad Street, the park includes an underground irrigation system, grass, self-contained restrooms, a paved walking path and handicapped parking area. Additional amenities, funded by other sources, include volleyball courts, picnic tables with shelters, built-in BBQ grills and fishing access areas.

This landscape and highway beautification project turned an unsightly, unusable area into a great recreational facility for the community. The approximate construction cost was \$95,000 in CTEP funds. CTA Architects Engineers designed the plans and Flack and Flack Construction was the prime contractor.



ADA Ramp in Bozeman

Sidewalks - Charlo, Lake County

About 1,300 feet of new sidewalk adorns the community of Charlo, in Lake County, thanks to the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP).

Work on the \$35,602 project began April 3, 2000 and was completed May 22 of the same year.

The new sidewalk is five feet wide and meets all specified ADA requirements. The project is just one more example of the program contributing to Montana's small communities.



ADA Ramp in Bozeman

CTEP Complies with ADA Requirements

To comply with Federal Guidelines all CTEP projects must be designed and constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes any pedestrian paths, sidewalks, benches, tables and other amenities.

The minimum width required is 36-inches with a minimum clear width passage of 32-inches. Curb ramps must have a 48-inch landing at the top of the ramp, which continues onto the sidewalk. The ramp inclines must not exceed 2%.

Ramp types such as these allow the disabled to move about our communities with more freedom and ease. Examples of ADA ramps recently installed in Bozeman are pictured to the left and above.

MDT Ensures Safe Highway Access to Developments

In recent years, many of Montana's cities have seen major new commercial and residential developments. While Montana's local governments oversee the important local land use decisions associated with where and how these developments proceed, the Montana Department of Transportation also has a vital interest.

Most of the major commercial developments access roads and highways under the state's authority, MDT's interest is to make sure roadway safety isn't compromised and that traffic continues to flow.

Making sure these issues are addressed is the mission of the System Impact Action Process (SIAP) that is located in the Rail, Transit and Planning Division. A System Impact Planner is identified as the single point of contact for developers and has the responsibility of shepherding the in-house technical review for each major highway access application.

While standards have to be met on all new approaches onto state highways, SIAP coordinates the review on only the largest developments - such as major retail stores that generate 150 or more vehicle trips per hour.

Generally, a developer's first contact is with one of MDT's five district offices. Through initial information regarding the magnitude of the proposal, MDT district staff makes the determination as to whether the project should be coordinated through SIAP. If so, then all potentially concerned technical reviewers are alerted.

These project reviews have to turn around quickly in order to keep pace with the developer's timeline that often includes local government processes and funding pressures.

Often, several technical issues need to be addressed before a new access point can be constructed, such as traffic safety, capacity, hydraulics, and slope stability. In these complex reviews, the single point of contact and mentoring service offered to developers through SIAP saves the developer time, and also ensures that new access onto the highway system won't compromise safety or create problems requiring costly fixes in the future.

The SIAP process usually includes:

- A traffic impact study (done by the developer) that looks at the traffic to be generated by the proposed development and how best to mitigate it,
- Coordination with Montana's local governments to make sure their transportation concerns are addressed,

- Coordination between the MDT District and Headquarters offices,
- Negotiation with the developers regarding transportation mitigations and phasing, and
- Issuing approach permits that include the agreed on conditions.

Several roadway improvements around the state have developed through this process, including the new travel lanes on North 19th Avenue in Bozeman and those on North Montana Avenue in Helena. While these very visible improvements were built at the developers expense to ensure continued traffic safety on these corridors, many of the mitigations identified are as simple as moving the location of a planned approach or adding space for more vehicles in a turn lane.

Regardless of the magnitude of the necessary fix, SIAP ensures a predictable, timely process for developers and a high level of continued safety and mobility for Montana's citizens.

When you see roadway traffic improvements near a new large commercial or residential development, this is SIAP at work.

For additional information regarding this process please contact Dan Martin (406) 444-6303, dmartin@state.mt.us or Jim Skinner (406) 444-9233, jskinner@state.mt.us.

Federal Appropriations Good for Montana Roads

The federal fiscal year 2001 appropriations again fully funded the Federal-aid program known as the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century or TEA-21. That means MDT will have funds to contract about \$260 million in highway construction projects in calendar year 2001, which is a healthy increase over last year. The transit and airport programs also received increases.

Besides maintaining the commitment to fund TEA-21, Congress also directed funding to specific Montana projects. A few of these projects include the Stillwater River Road, Giant Springs Road in Great Falls, Secondary 323 between Alzada and Ekalaka, and Airport Road in Billings.

Montana owes a big thank you to Senator Burns for his efforts in Appropriations, and Senator Baucus for his leadership in drafting TEA-21.

INFORMATION STATION

Important Phone Numbers

Director- Dave Galt
444-6201, E-mail: dgalt@state.mt.us

Deputy Director - Jim Currie
444-7222, E-mail: jcurrie@state.mt.us

Public Information -
444-7205

Human Resources - Russ McDonald
444-6044, E-mail: rmcDonald@state.mt.us

Legal Services - Tim Reardon
444-6302, E-mail: treardon@state.mt.us

Environmental Services - Joel Marshik
444-7632, E-mail: jmarshik@state.mt.us

DIVISIONS:

Administration -
444-6023

Aeronautics - Mike Ferguson
444-2506, E-mail: mferguson@state.mt.us

Highways & Engineering - Gary Gilmore
444-6206, E-mail: gagilmore@state.mt.us

Maintenance - John Blacker
444-6158, E-mail: jblacker@state.mt.us

Motor Carrier Services - Drew Livesay
444-6146, E-mail: dlivesay@state.mt.us

Rail, Transit & Planning - Patricia Saindon
444-3143, E-mail: psaindon@state.mt.us



Montana Department of Transportation

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Toll Free: 1-800-714-7296
Voice: (406) 444-6201
TTY: (406) 444-7696
Fax: (406) 444-7643

Transportation Commission
(406) 444-7200
Road Conditions:
1-800-226-7623 or
1-800-335-7592 TTY

District Administrators



District 1 - Missoula: Loran Frazier-523-5802, E-Mail lfrazier@state.mt.us

District 2 - Butte: Jason Giard- 494-9625, E-Mail: jgiard@state.mt.us

District 3 - Great Falls: Mick Johnson- 454-5887, E-Mail: mjohnson@state.mt.us

District 4 - Glendive: Bill McChesney- 233-3600, E-mail: bmcchesney@state.mt.us

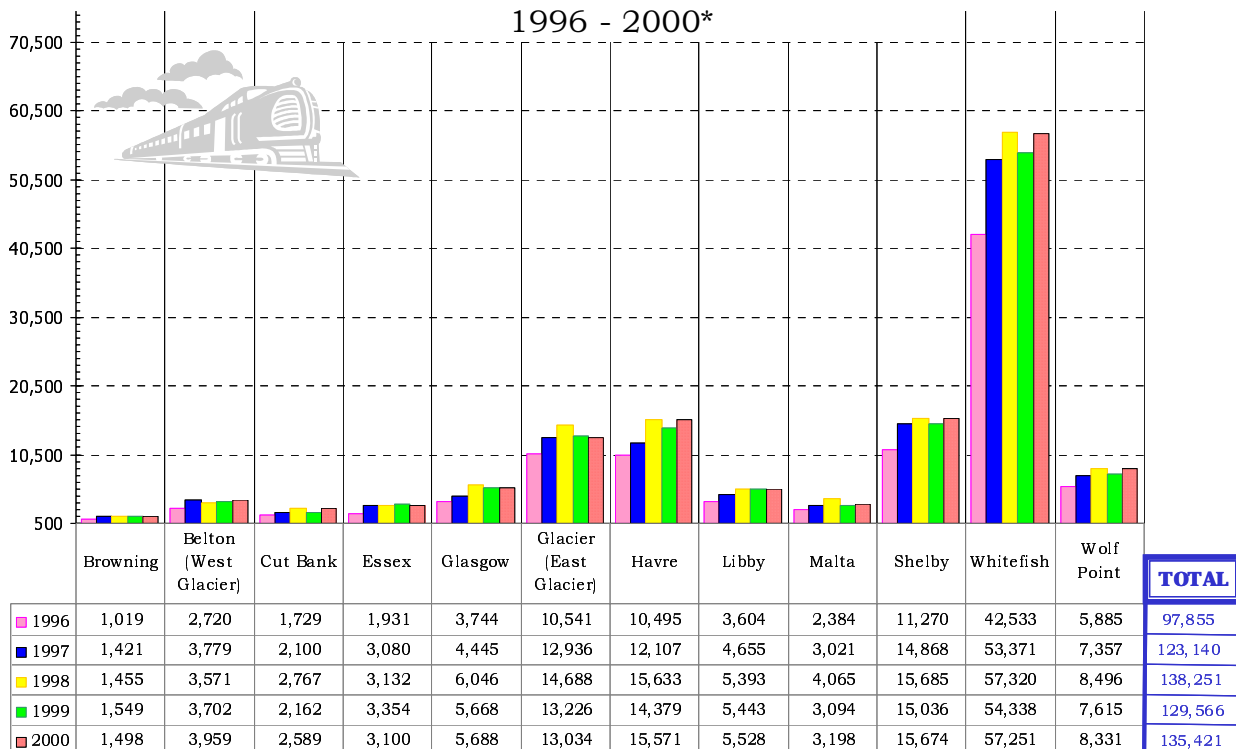
District 5 - Billings: Bruce Barrett- 657-0210, E-Mail: bbarrett@state.mt.us

Transportation Commissioners and Related Montana County License Plate Prefixes

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>	<u>District 4</u>	<u>District 5</u>
Dan Larson 293-3304	Shiell Anderson 222-1164	Dan Rice 727-7500	Nancy Espy 436-2588	Thorm Forseth 259-3147
4. Missoula	1. Butte/ Silver Bow	2. Cascade	9. Powder River	3. Yellowstone
7. Flathead	6. Gallatin	5. Lewis & Clark	11. Phillips	8. Fergus
13. Ravalli	18. Beaverhead	12. Hill	14. Custer	10. Carbon
15. Lake	25. Madison	19. Chouteau	16. Dawson	22. Big Horn
28. Powell	30. Anaconda/ Deer Lodge	21. Toole	17. Roosevelt	23. Musselshell
35. Sanders	43. Broadwater	24. Blaine	20. Valley	32. Stillwater
46. Granite	49. Park	26. Pondera	27. Richland	33. Treasure
54. Mineral	51. Jefferson	31. Teton	29. Rosebud	36. Judith Basin
56. Lincoln		38. Glacier	34. Sheridan	40. Sweet Grass
		48. Liberty	37. Daniels	44. Wheatland
			39. Fallon	53. Golden
			41. McCone	Valley
			42. Carter	55. Petroleum
			45. Prairie	
			50. Garfield	
			52. Wibaux	

AMTRAK RIDERSHIP Station Totals

1996 - 2000*



Legislative Opportunity!

The 57th Montana Legislature is addressing many transportation -related issues this session. The Montana Department of Transportation encourages you to take an interest and get involved in the resolution of these issues.

The phone number for legislative information or to call a legislator is (406) 444-4800, the TDD number for the hearing impaired is (800) 832-0283. You may access the legislative website at www.state.mt.us.



Transportation Planning Division Telephone Numbers

Only the most frequently requested numbers are listed here. For an area or person not listed, call **1-800-714-7296** (in Montana only), or **(406) 444-3423**. TTY (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

Administrator (Patricia Saindon)	444-3143
Bike/Pedestrian (Carol Strizich)	444-9273
CTEP (Mike Davis)	444-4383
Mapping (Jim Erickson)	444-6119
Multimodal Planning (Dick Turner) ..	444-7289
Projects (Jeff Ebert)	444-7639
Public Involvement (Dave Dreher) ..	444-6245
Secondary Roads (Gary Larson)	444-6110
Road Inventory (Zia Kazimi)	444-6111
Traffic Safety (Albert Goke)	444-7301
Traffic Data (Dan Bisom)	444-6122
Transit (Janis Winston)	444-4210
Urban Planning (Lynn Zanto)	444-3445
ITS Planning (Ross Tervo)	444-9248
Mail List Manager (Dawn McCallum)	444-6115
Newsline Editor (Joan Scott)	444-7307

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Montana Minute...

It is further by highway from Yaak to Alzada (774 miles) than it is from Washington, DC to Chicago; Denver to Las Vegas; Seattle to Reno; Atlanta to Chicago; Jacksonville; Florida to Washington, DC; or San Francisco to Salt Lake City.



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